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SENATE MEMORIAL 17

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004

INTRODUCED BY

Manny M Aragon

A MEMORIAL

EXPRESSING CONDOLENCE TO MR. WILLARD HOPPES AND FAMILY ON THE
DEATH OF ALICE FAYE KENT HOPPES.

WHEREAS, Alice Faye Kent Hoppes was born in Tucumcari, New Mexico, on May 20, 1939, the second of four children of the late Harold and Bessie Kent; and

WHEREAS, Alice's parents instilled in their children the ideals of hard work, honesty and independence; and

WHEREAS, Faye, as she was known then, grew up in a segregated society and attended the segregated school established for the small black population of Tucumcari; and

WHEREAS, when she graduated from the then-recently integrated Tucumcari high school, she was the only African American in her class; and

WHEREAS, the indignities of discrimination made Alice Faye

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1 Kent Hoppes a vocal advocate for civil rights, and, after
2 moving with her family to Albuquerque, she became even more
3 involved in the quest to provide a voice to black citizens
4 throughout New Mexico; and

5 WHEREAS, she began her work with the national association
6 for the advancement of colored people in 1975 as chairwoman of
7 the youth committee, was elected president of the New Mexico
8 chapter in 1984 and served in this position for twelve years,
9 and she served two terms as president of the Albuquerque
10 chapter of the national council of Negro women; and

11 WHEREAS, Alice dedicated her life to the fight against
12 injustice, particularly racial injustice, and her leadership
13 was evident in the many honors she received, including the 2000
14 Martin Luther King, Jr., freedom award from the national
15 association for the advancement of colored people, the
16 Albuquerque human rights award and outstanding black women from
17 the commission on the status of women; and

18 WHEREAS, Ms. Hoppes was instrumental in the creation of
19 the African-American village at the state fair; African-
20 American Day at the legislature; the Martin Luther King, Jr.,
21 holiday and commission; and the office on African American
22 affairs, for which she was serving as director at the time of
23 her death; and

24 WHEREAS, Alice Hoppes died October 21, 2003, after a
25 valiant battle with cancer, and she is survived by her husband,

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1 Willard; four daughters, Ladonna Hall-Gamble, Toia Morgan,
2 Diedra Faulkner and Linda Hoppes; nine grandchildren; and two
3 great-grandchildren; and

4 WHEREAS, many public officials, including past and present
5 governors, legislators, mayors and others, will eulogize the
6 life of Alice Faye Kent Hoppes, but it is the recognition in
7 the hearts of ordinary people whose lives have been made better
8 by her tireless efforts that will ennoble the life of Alice
9 Hoppes;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
11 OF NEW MEXICO that its heartfelt sympathy and condolences be
12 extended to the family and friends of Alice Faye Kent Hoppes.

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